United Nations E/ICEF/2015/P/L.33/Rev.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
1 September 2015

Original: English

For decision

United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
Second regular session 2015
8-10 September 2015
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, this note informs the Executive Board of the two-month extensions of the country programmes for Azerbaijan and Uruguay, approved by the Executive Director.

The note further presents the reasons for the proposed two-month extensions of the country programmes for Argentina and Iraq, following one-year extensions; and the proposed two-month extension for the Syrian Arab Republic, following four consecutive one-year extensions. The Executive Board is requested to approve these programme extensions. The new country programme documents (CPDs) are expected to be submitted at the 2016 first regular session.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the two-month extensions of the country programmes for Azerbaijan and Uruguay, which were approved by the Executive Director, as presented in table 1.

2. *Approves* the two-month extensions of the country programmes for Argentina and Iraq, following one-year extensions; and a two-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following four consecutive one-year extensions, as presented in table 2. This approval will allow programme continuity until the consideration, at the 2016 first regular session, of the new country programmes.

* E/ICEF/2015/12.

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Table 1

First extensions of one year (or less) of ongoing country programmes approved by the Executive Director

UNICEF-assisted country programme	*Original programme period*	*Year/period approved for extension*	*Reasons for the extension*
Azerbaijan	2011-2015	January-February 2016	The extension will provide additional time for the finalization of the new CPD for 2016-2020. The new CPD for 2016-2020 will be presented for approval by the Executive Board at the 2016 first regular session.
Uruguay	2011-2015	January-February 2016	A new CPD for 2016-2020 will be presented for approval by the Executive Board at the 2016 first regular session, with a starting date of 1 January 2016. The extension will allow the country programme to cover the period January to February 2016, until Board approval of the new CPD.

Table 2

Consecutive extensions of ongoing country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is requested

UNICEF-assisted country programme	*Original programme period, including previous extensions*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reasons for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Argentina	2010-2014 (previously extended to 2015)	January-February 2016	This proposed two-month extension follows a one-year extension (2014-2015). A new CPD for 2016-2020 will be presented to the Executive Board for approval on a no-objection basis at the 2016 first regular session, with a starting date of 1 January 2016.	UNDP and UNFPA will present new CPDs to their Executive Board in January 2016, which will allow for the harmonization of country programme cycles.	UNDP and UNFPA do not need to request a formal extension of their country programmes to their Executive Board for the period January 2016. Country programme documents will be approved retroactively at the first regular session of the Executive Board, with a starting date of 1 January 2016.

UNICEF-assisted country programme	*Original programme period, including previous extensions*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reasons for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Iraq	2011-2014 (previously extended to 2015)	January-February 2016	This proposed two-month extension follows a one-year extension (2014-2015). The short extension will enable the continuation of the country programme to cover the gap between the end of the current one-year extension and approval and start of the new country programme for 2016-2017.	In accordance with high-level discussions between UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations country team (UNCT), United Nations agencies will align their country programmes in 2016.	The new CPD for 2016-2017 will be presented to the Executive Board for approval on a no-objection basis at the 2016 first regular session.
Syrian Arab Republic	2007-2011 (previously extended to 2015)	January-February 2016	This proposed two-month extension follows four consecutive one-year extensions. The extension will enable the continuation of the country programme to cover the gap between the end of the current one-year extension and approval and start of the new country programme for 2016-2017.	In 2014, the UNCT committed to developing a 2016-2017 Strategic Framework and is on track to finalizing the framework in the last quarter of 2015.	The new Strategic Framework will be launched in January 2016. It will guide the formulation of United Nations Executive Committee agencies' country programme documents. A new CPD for 2016-2017 will be presented to the Executive Board for approval on a no-objection basis at the 2016 first regular session.